A2 or router to be incorporated into DASA 12. The DASA 12 also allows the primary and secondary interconnects 18 and 20 to be easily upgraded with new switching technology that may provide more ports with faster LAN connections. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring to FIG. 5, for multi-link calls, the NAS stack 16 is configured into a stack group using a Stack Group Bidding Protocol (SGBP). SGBP is a protocol that binds selectable NASs 32 in the NAS stack 16 into a single logical access server. Multi-link calls are then distributed across different chassis within the NAS stack 16. This arrangement A3 encompasses all the multi-link functions, packet fragmentation and packet reassembly within the NAS stack 16. The SGBP is described in detail in co-pending patent application Ser. No. 08/846,788 entitled: DYNAMIC BIDDING PROTOCOL FOR CONDUCTING MULTILINK SESSIONS THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT PHYSICAL TERMINATION POINTS filed April 30, 1997 which is herein incorporated by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Without primary or secondary interconnect 18 or 20, all NASs 32 would have to contend over the same network for communicating with each other and also with the routing engines 22. The primary and secondary interconnects 18 and 20 allow multiple pairs of NASs 32 to communicate to each other at the same time. Even more significant, the primary and secondary interconnects 18 and 20 allow anyone of the NASs 32 to communicate with A4 the routing engines 22 while the other NASs 32 communicate with each other in parallel. This provides the substantial advantage of allowing the NASs 32 to perform the multilink PPP sessions independently of the data transfer process between the NAS stack 16 and routing engines 26. The transfer of information between the NAS stack 16 and the routing engines 22 is therefore more efficient, because the multilink packets have already been bundled together into one packet stream before being sent to routing engines 22. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph: